

CURRENCY BILL PASSES UP TO HOUSE

Washington, Dec. 20.—The currency bill, passed last night by the Senate 54 to 43, will be a law by Monday, if plans by congressional leaders for speeding-up of the conference process materialize. It is understood that those certain to be named on the conference committee of the two houses have been meeting quietly for the last six days.

Pres. Wilson has expressed himself as delighted with the Senate draft and will sign the measure as soon as it reaches the White House.

The currency bill, as it passed the Senate, provides a plan for concentrating the reserves of 25,000 banks into the most gigantic banking association in the world.

It provides for the mobilization of these bank reserves; it provides for the issuance of elastic currency through federal reserve notes which may be obtained on the security of commercial bills of short maturities. It establishes an open discount market, where commercial bills and paper can be discounted at low rates of interest.

It provides for safe-guarding the 2 per cent bonds; it establishes foreign branch banks to take care of our foreign commerce. It will stabilize the commercial, financial and industrial conditions of the U. S.

It extends a strong helping hand to the farmers and producers of the country and will be very valuable to business men as well as to the bankers themselves.

The system is under supervisory control of the government through a federal reserve board with full power to fix the interest rates, control the elastic currency or federal reserve notes, examine the banks and remove officers or directors of any federal reserve bank.

The system will start with \$53,000,000 of capital and will in two years have over \$400,000,000 of re-

serves and probably \$200,000,000 of government funds distributed through from eight to twelve banks adjusted to serve conveniently and sympathetically every section of the country.

SAYS "POISONED NEEDLE" GIRL WAS "JUST DREAMING"

Police Captain Meagher of Des-plaines street, who thought he had a poisoned needle artist in his clutches, today disgustedly exclaimed that pretty Miss Opal Hummer, from a Dunkard community near Portland, Ind., "was just dreaming."

A few minutes after Miss Hummer excitedly reported to the police that a man with a poisoned needle stabbed her in the wrist in the Union Depot, two coppers dragged to the station Dr. Marcus H. Lynch of Templeton, Ia., charged with tossing a rock through a restaurant window because the soup was too thin. In the doctor's pocket was found a hypodermic syringe.

Lynch was about to be taken below when Miss Hummer appeared. She was positive he was not the man. An ambulance surgeon said the wound on the girl's wrist was an old one.

CHEER UP, THERE'S A PLENTY!

The establishment of three Chinese restaurants in London leads a writer to remark that Londoners can now enjoy a meal of rats which form a favorite dish in China. Split, dried, dressed and powdered with finely ground white bark they look something like haddock. Dr. Arthur Stradling once said that rats would not only be wholesome but very nice if properly prepared.

"No common dock or house rats," he said, "but such as I ate, barn-fed animals, snared in the hop gardens." Admiral Beaufort and other explorers speak highly of rats as welcome additions to their supply of food in those dreary latitudes of the arctic regions.